

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W
-----066348 110538Z /64

P R 110440Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1398
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
INS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7406

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, TH, LA
SUBJECT: INCREASED HMONG REFUGEE INFLUX

REF: BANGKOK 7324

1. TO FOLLOW UP ON THE RUMORS IN REFTTEL, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CONSULATE IN UDORN VISITED TWO DISTRICTS OF HONG KHAI PROVINCE MARCH 9 AND 10. THE DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF OF PHON PHISAI SAID THAT OVER 200 HMONG HAD ENTERED HIS DISTRICT BETWEEN MARCH 1 AND 9. THE DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF OF BUNG KAN SAID THAT 62 HMONG HAD CROSSED THE MEKONG TO ENTER HIS DISTRICT DURING THE SAME TIME SPAN.

2. BOTH POLICE OFFICERS BELIEVE THAT MANY MORE HMONG WHO FLED THE PHU BIA AREA IN MID-FEBRUARY WILL ATTEMPT TO CROSS THE MEKONG IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ONE OF THEM CLAIMED THAT ABOUT 1,000 HMONG HAD BEEN KILLED BETWEEN PHU BIA AND THE MEKONG BY VIETNAMESE TROOPS USING TANKS, LIGHT AIRCRAFT, ARTILLERY, AND GAS.

3. THE SECOND LOCAL POLICE OFFICER COMMENTED THAT
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LPDR/SRV TROOPS KILLED 26 HMONG ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE RIVER MARCH 7. HE HAS SIGHTED BODIES, OFTEN IN CLUMPS OF FOUR OR FIVE, FLOATING DOWN THE MEKONG PAST HIS POLICE STATION. THIS LOCAL POLICE OFFICER ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD DO ALL HE COULD TO PREVENT FURTHER CROSSINGS OF REFUGEES INTO BUNG KAN DISTRICT. WHILE HE WOULD NOT ORDER HIS MEN TO SHOOT AT THEM, HE WILL

DIRECT THEM TO FIRE WARNING SHOTS IF THEY SPOT FLEEING REFUGEES, IN EFFECT, ALERTING LPDR/SRFV TROOPS ON THE OPPOSITE BANK OF THE RIVER.

4. THE MAJORITY OF THE HMONG WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY MADE THE CROSSING TO THAILAND SINCE MARCH 1 HAVE GONE ON TO THE NONG KHAI REFUGEE DETENTION CENTER. THE RTG THUS APPEARS TO BE ACCEPTING THOSE WHO GET ACROSS. WE HOWEVER, ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER THE LOCAL POLICE OFFICER'S STATED ATTITUDE (PARA. 3 ABOVE) AND ARE FOLLOWING UP ON THIS ISSUE IMMEDIATELY WITH THE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE. WE HAVE ALSO INSTRUCTED OUR CONSULATE IN UDORN TO CONTACT THE NONG KHAI GOVERNOR OR ANOTHER SENIOR PROVINCIAL OFFICER MARCH 11 TO IMPRESS ON HIM OUR CONCERN OVER THE POLICE OFFICER'S STATEMENTS, POINTING TO THE DANGER OF TRAGEDY. BASED ON THE CONSULATE'S FURTHER REPORT, WE WILL FOLLOW UP HERE. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, DATA, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO07406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780109-0301
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780379/aaaacoux.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f2c918c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BANGKOK 7324
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3361864
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCREASED HMONG REFUGEE INFLUX
TAGS: SREF, TH, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f2c918c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014